



State of Idaho

DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

“Building a Safer Idaho”

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**News Release
October 22, 2008
For Immediate Release**

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Considering “Permanent” Outdoor Holiday Lighting? Keep Safety in Mind

Agency issues cautions as LED technology goes festive

Meridian, ID – The Idaho Division of Building Safety (DBS) issued a caution today for Idaho homeowners considering installation of “permanent” holiday lighting displays. An increasing number of businesses are offering to install such lighting systems in homes, creating potential safety hazards.

DBS Electrical Bureau Chief Jeff Fitzloff said consumers should make sure any outdoor lighting products they are considering have been tested and listed as safe.

“Many of the newer products we’re seeing marketed as “permanent” outdoor lighting systems have not been listed for use by approved testing laboratories,” said Fitzloff. “This leaves their safety in question and could pose a danger to the lives and property of our citizens.”

Fitzloff noted that virtually all the outdoor seasonal lighting systems being marketed in Idaho as “permanent” displays are cord-connected assemblies of the LED type, which use about one-tenth as much electricity as conventional incandescent lights and operate at much cooler temperatures.

Under the National Electrical Code, installations of lighting equipment of this type considered to be “permanent” must be wired in directly. Permanent wiring must be installed either by the owner of the residence or by a licensed electrical contractor, and an electrical permit and inspection of the installation are required.

For further information, consumers may call Jeff Fitzloff, DBS Electrical Bureau Chief, at (208) 332-8980 or Rob Foster, electrical code specialist at (208) 332-7147.

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